(vii) Trade in elephant ivory has been totally banned to discourage poaching in elephants for its tusk.

(viii) The Asian Elephant is also included in Appendix-1 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES) which prohibits International Trade in Asian Ivory.

(ix) Government of India has launched Project Elephant in 1992 to provide impetus to the conservation of wild elephants in India. Under this project assistance is given to 12 states for strengthening their protection and communication infrastructure, development of habitat, prevention & mitigation of man-elephant conflicts etc.

(c) As per recent census (1999) there are 400 adult males in Orissa.

(d) No, Sir. As per 1979 census the sex ratio was Ml: Female 2.5 and as per census 1999 the sex ratio was Ml: Female 2.5.1. This indicates that there is no damage to sex ratio of Male-Female Elephant in Orissa.

Protection of Environment and Forests in Meghalaya

3695. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for protection of environment and forests in Meghalaya in the Ninth Five Year Plan, district-wise;

(b) the measures contemplated to be taken by the Government during the current financial year, to save the forest areas; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests has allocated an amount of Rs. 440.80 lakhs for protection of environment and forests in Meghalaya in the *Ninth* Five Year Plan. District-wise allocations are not made.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing serveral schemes like Integrated Afforestation and Eco Development Project, Area Oriented Fuel-wood Fodder Project and Non Timber Forests Produce to save forest areas in Meghalaya and the same schemes will continue during the current financial year.